

# PLANNING STRATEGY

## SECTION 3

A VISION  
FOR THE  
CITY OF  
SOUTH SYDNEY

## A VISION FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH SYDNEY

The public participation program identified a number of key issues to be addressed in planning for the future of South Sydney.

These included:

- The quality of the physical environment.
- The capacity of the physical environment to recover from long term environmental mismanagement.
- The future role of the City in terms of the uses it supports and encourages.
- The implications of environmental and land use factors on community health and general well being.
- The needs of the community (adequate and affordable health and housing and appropriate employment opportunities) as well as the needs of specific groups within the community.
- Public safety.
- The range and quality of services provided to the local community and the accessibility of those services.
- Public participation in decisions concerning the South Sydney community.
- The relationship between the City of South Sydney and the region in which it operates.



In response to these issues the community planning teams developed 20 major objectives. Together, these issues and objectives form the basis of an appropriate 'vision' for South Sydney, based on the local community's perspective. This vision provides the foundation for the development of a strategic plan and an integrated approach to dealing with urban issues and planning for the future of South Sydney.

Essentially the vision can be seen to promote a sustainable City of South Sydney where sustainability embraces the broad spectrum of local community needs as well as a longer term global strategy involving the preservation of the physical environment.

Whilst the vision is concerned with more than simply sustaining the physical environment alone, it recognises the impact of development on the Earth's natural systems and on people's lives. In this context the vision emphasises the need for ecologically sustainable development to ensure the overall well being of the community within South Sydney, both now and in the future.

The three key principles underlying the vision are sustainability, equity and efficiency where:

**Sustainability** applies to using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.

**Equity** applies to the allocation of resources to ensure sustainability and the meeting of community needs (on a prioritised basis).

**Efficiency** applies to the process of managing resources to implement those decisions.

In order to pursue these principles, it would be necessary for both Council and the community as a whole to adopt the following ethics which have been widely documented:

### 1. An Environmental Ethic

*which recognises that:*

- People are as much a part of, and depend on, the earth's ecosystem for food, clean air and water for their survival.
- Whilst technological advancement can improve human life and comfort by satisfying people's needs, it can be detrimental to the ecosystem which can only be harmful to people in the long run.
- Bio-diversity is necessary to sustain a living ecosystem.

In consideration of the above, the vision seeks to protect the City's natural systems (for example, waterways) to ensure the long term viability of the physical environment by planning and developing a city which uses fewer natural resources and, as far as possible, non renewable materials in processes which are energy efficient.

### 2. A Quality of Life Ethic

*based on:*

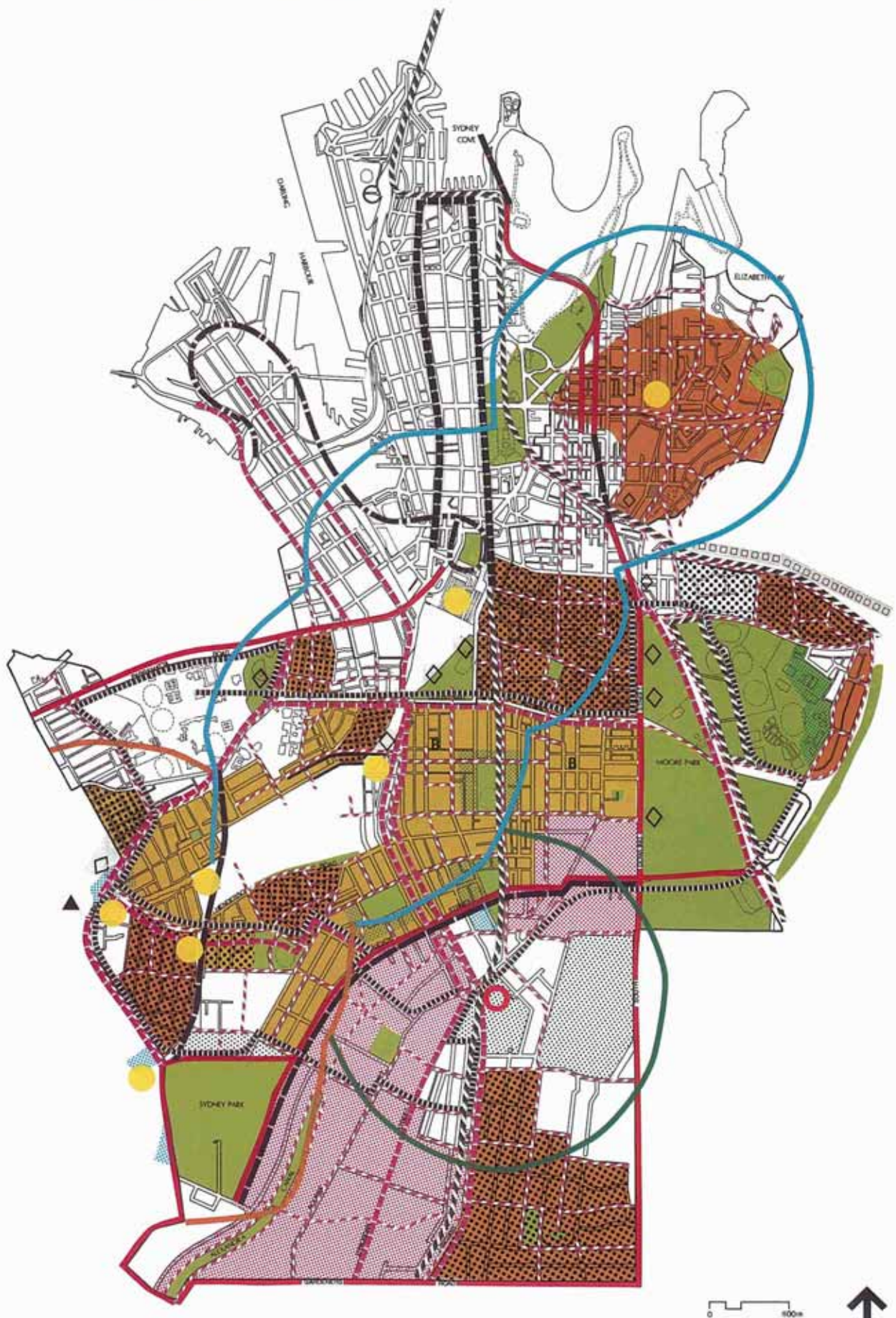
- The basic inherent physical and psychological needs of people being met by the ecosystem, the man made environment and the social environment.
- People's level of adaptation to social effects and conditions of technical innovation.
- Real personal freedom, defined here as the potential for individuals to pursue their own visions, goals and priorities.

Pursuing the quality of life ethic for South Sydney would require:

- Improving quality of life for local residents by increasing and supporting access to a broad range of community services which are responsive to their needs, and ensuring that development provides for those needs.
- Stressing the importance of urban consolidation, but only when it involves the integration of land use with transport infrastructure and services (including community services).
- Creating an urban environment which is efficient in terms of being liveable and affordable and one which encourages people to do things more simply and economically.
- Managing existing detrimental environmental impacts to ensure they are minimised.











## MAP 7






# KEY COMMUNITY'S VISION





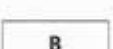





## MAP 7

-  Open space network
-  Pedestrian network
-  Mixed uses/ Employment
-  Higher densities
-  Higher densities/ Mixed uses
-  Areas identified as functioning well as community exchange places
-  Preservation
-  Sensitive infill

### Road Hierarchy

-  Primary (State)
-  Secondary (Regional)
-  Proposed Tunnel

### Public Transport

-  Possible bus loop
-  LRT to be built
-  LRT to consider
-  LRT being considered
-  Local bus services
-  Railway station
-  City - airport link - station
-  1km around station with frequent services (5min. intervals)
-  1km from station with less frequent services (15min. intervals)
-  1km from proposed station

### Pedestrians

-  Improve access at key locations
-  Lengthen walk phase at signals
-  Investigate overpass
-  Temporary street closures on Saturdays

### OBJECTIVES

- Enforce, promote and encourage development and systems which minimise the use of non renewable resources.
- Promote a healthy environment by eliminating air and noise pollution.
- Increase residential and employment densities in areas which have appropriate built form, character and service levels.
- Accommodate diverse land uses and minimise adverse impacts on the local community.
- Develop an urban design and open space strategy for the whole of South Sydney.
- Identify, co-ordinate and plan for the impacts of regional trends and developments on South Sydney to minimise any adverse impacts and maximise benefits for the South Sydney community.
- Promote development that conserves the natural and built environment.
- Create an environment in South Sydney where public transport is the preferred form of transport and the use of private passenger vehicles is actively discouraged.
- Manage the road system in South Sydney to channel traffic along main routes and restrict through traffic in residential and commercial areas.
- Reduce the number of trucks and impacts of road freight transport in South Sydney.
- Minimise the risks from the use, storage and transport of hazardous materials.
- Ensure that parking facilities are managed so that private vehicle usage is discouraged whilst supporting balanced economic growth and activity.
- Adopt a health plan for the city which recognises and responds to the implications of environmental factors on community health.
- Improve public safety and reduce crime through appropriate design and community action.
- Accommodate and provide appropriate services for groups with special needs.
- Provide a range of appropriate and affordable housing.
- Facilitate and support local employment initiatives.
- Provide for public participation in the planning process.
- Seek additional alternate forms of funding for community facilities and services and urban improvement schemes.
- Provide appropriate accessible and affordable recreation and community facilities.



### 3. A Management Ethic

*Based on an Integrated, Co-operative Approach:*

- To provide a mechanism for Council to improve the management of its resources and functions to provide better service for the South Sydney community. This reflects community demand for government decision making to be more open and accountable, and is consistent with the intent of the new Local Government Act in NSW.

A sustainable City of South Sydney would also build upon the essential qualities of a 'peoples' city including:

- Interaction
- Exchange
- Complexity
- Diversity

These qualities, which are most often found in older cities and which were built upon the premise of greater densities, social intercourse and self dependency, are already experienced in some areas of South Sydney including Kings Cross, Surry Hills, Woolloomooloo, Darlington, Redfern, Erskineville and Waterloo.



*"The interesting environments of Kings Cross are where residential, commercial and retail becomes confused, where bright lights mix with the unsurpassed views of the Harbour and central business district, where they have the best of both worlds. Within minutes one can be in the City or Double Bay, visit a gallery, go shopping or sit and watch the passing parade. It is the model planners dream of a vibrant city offering human contact as well as the advantages of high rise and high density living with a real community purpose."*

*Philip Cox*

The rejuvenation of these 'urban villages' with their higher population densities and mixed activities provide the starting point for achieving a sustainable urban form within South Sydney.

The 'vision' capitalises on these unique qualities and strengths to facilitate an urban setting that:

- Is accessible to public modes of transport to reduce car dependence.
- Is integrated and compact, with many activities creating rich and diverse neighbourhoods and places for community exchange, where people are free to walk and cycle in a relatively, safe, attractive and pleasant environment.
- Accommodates balanced economic growth based on sensitive, sustainable development that improves the way urban land is used, reduces congestion and pollution, and has minimal impact on the community and the environment.
- Restores community emphasis, and fosters an ideal of a city belonging to the people.

The vision presents a challenge to both Council and the local community. At the most basic level it requires a change in attitude, reflected in lifestyle, which acknowledges the city as a 'living thing' and something which has a future dependent on, and determined by human activity.

Ultimately it is up to the South Sydney community to encourage a more sustainable city form which improves both quality of life and the environment, and ensures the equitable, effective and efficient allocation of resources to meet the community's needs.

In this sense, the major theme of sustainability adopted by this strategy should be viewed as a logical extension of Council's current commitment to the environment, as exemplified in Council's *Greenhouse Effect Policy Statement*.

